

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7-31 and 36-47 remain pending in the application, with claims 7, 16, 25, 36, 39 and 41 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 32-35 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 9, 12-15, 31, and 45 have been amended herein. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the application as originally filed.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 12-15 have been indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. By this Amendment, these claims have been amended to depend from allowed base claims and thus are believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-15, 32-38, and 45 are objected to as allegedly being unclear, for reciting “changed in a direction of the relative movement of the vibration body in the contact body.” Without conceding the propriety of this objection, and solely to advance prosecution, claims 1-6 and 32-38 have been cancelled herein. Of the remaining objected-to claims, only claim 9 contains the objected-to recitation, and claim 9 has been amended to delete same. In light of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-6, 31, 32-35, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,635,977 (Kataoka et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, and solely to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-6

and 32-35 have been cancelled, and claims 31 and 45 have been amended to depend from allowed base claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the art rejection is believed to be in order.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Didas', is written over a horizontal line.

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